

### III. REMARKS

The present invention is a video-teleconferencing system and method. In order to achieve this, it is necessary that camera 2 be capable of viewing a user during video conferencing, see page 7, lines 13-17. In contradiction, Umezawa is for showing the status of the scene, e.g. a fire. To do this, camera 11 points away from the user (see axis Z1 in Fig. 8). Even if camera 11 is rotated around, which is not normal operation, it would just show the area behind the user.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that the camera is capable of viewing the user in normal operation. Since this feature is not found in Umezawa, the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 USC 102 on this reference should be withdrawn. Further, since this feature is not suggested by Umezawa, indeed it would destroy the intended purpose of this reference, these claims are unobvious over it.

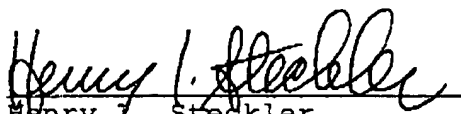
Since neither of the references disclose or suggest that the camera is capable of viewing the user during video conferencing, indeed Kunitono does not even disclose a camera, the rejection of claims 6 and 12 under 35 USC 103 on Umezawa in view of Kunitomo should be withdrawn because even if these references are combined, the result is not the present invention.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should

any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Feb 3, 2004  
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